

STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT

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INTELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION NUMBER

Communist Organizations in Holland and

Belgium for Aid to Spanish Refugees

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COUNTRY SUBJECT

Spain

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- known as the Comite Espana Libre (Ver Vrij Spanje Free Spain Committee) and the Asociacion de Ex-Combatientes de las Brigadas Internacionales (Association of Former Fighters in the International Brigades), have been organized in Holland and Belgium. These organizations are not engaged exclusively in propaganda or welfare activities, but also facilitate the clandestine movement of Spaniards from Holland through Belgium to France.
- 2. Members of the Comite Espana Libre reportedly may be contacted through S. W. Bronwesplein, telephone 25739 GEM, Giro V 1415, Amsterdam. The committee is composed entirely of Communists who were former members of the International Brigade. Their rendezvous is a restaurant owned by one of the members. The crossing from Holland to Belgium is effected in the following manner: From Amsterdam by car to Heerle; from this point after several days' seclusion to Maastricht where, as frontier workers, they are accompanied by ex-Brigade members across the border into Belgium.
- 3. Once in Belgium, the Spaniards are directed to Liege to the ice plant of an ex-Brigade member who supplies them with the necessary funds to reach the French frontier. It is of the opinion that facilities for crossing from Belgium to France are not as well organized as are those for the Holland-Belgium route, presumably since the frontier is subject to less rigid control. Reportedly, persons have crossed into France from Belgium through their own means by the Hastiere (Belgium)-Givet (France)-Vireaux-Fumay-Mezieres route.

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